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IRAN/TERRORISM RATHER: In the past half year, there has been an unusually high number of terrorist attacks against Westerners all over the world. Secretary of State Shultz this week called it a form of warfare, state-sponsored terrorism by just a handful of countries, among them Iran. Bill McLaughlin has been looking into this.

MCLAUGHLIN: CBS News has learned that U.S. intelligence believes Iranian student groups are being used to commit acts of terror around the world (File tape), and intelligence sources say unusual movements by Iranian students abroad during the past several days may indicate they are positioning for further attacks. The students are said to be controlled by Iran's ayatollah Khomeini and other religious leaders, who are using them to do what they believe is God's work, the assassination of Western diplomats and governments officials, especially Americans. It's believed there are more than 25,000 Iranian students in the United States, and many are anti-American. The U.S. is closely monitoring their activities, but so far, no terrorist link has been uncovered. The trail of Iranian student terrorism goes back at least as far as the murderous bombing of the U.S. Marines barracks in Beirut last October that took 241 American lives. The trail picks up again in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta. Last month, the British, French, U.S. and other embassies there received anonymous threats against their diplomats worldwide. Shortly after those threats were made, the terrorists struck in three different cities. In Beirut, a French diplomat was critically wounded. In Athens, a British diplomat was murdered. In Strasbourg, France, an American diplomat was shot in the head and narrowly escaped death. This past Tuesday, again in Athens, a U.S. Army master sergeant was wounded. What to do about this new kind of warfare is a question being debated at the highest levels of the Reagan administration. JOHN HUGHES (State Department Spokesman): If you know that a truck loaded with dynamite is roaring down the road towards a building you occupy, is your position such... must it be that you have to wait until that truck hits the building and blows you up or are you able to take that truck out before it, before it reaches you.

MCLAUGHLIN: There is now a deep urge within the Reagan administration to make Iran pay for its terrorism, not to settle old scores but to make terrorism so costly and so painful that Iran will have to abandon it as a tact. Bill McLaughlin, CBS News, the State Department.